

REMARKS

Reconsideration of the application is requested.

Claims 1-9 and 11-14 remain in the application. Claims 1-9 and 11-14 are subject to examination. Claims 8 and 9 have been amended. Claim 10 has been canceled. Claims 12-14 have been indicated as allowable.

Under the heading "Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102" on pages 2-3 of the above-identified Office Action, claims 1-3 and 7-11 have been rejected as being fully anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 5,591,967 to Moake (hereinafter Moake) under 35 U.S.C. § 102.

The receiver circuit according to the invention of the instant application contains a detector circuit having first and second signal detectors 11, 12. The first signal detector receives a first input signal for comparing the input signal with a detection threshold and for providing a first output signal, and the second signal detector receives a second input signal for comparing the input signal with a detection threshold and for providing a second output signal. The detection thresholds of the signal detectors are adjustable via control inputs, whereas the output of the first signal detector is coupled

to the control input of the second signal detector, and the output of the second signal detector is coupled to the control input of the first signal detector. In this receiver circuit the detection threshold of each signal detector is adjusted dependent on the output signal of the other signal detector. In other words, a high output of the first receiver 11 causes a first high threshold voltage for the second receiver and a low output of the first receiver 11 causes a second high threshold voltage for the second receiver. Claim 1 of the instant application clearly recites the connection of the control inputs being connected to the outputs of the respective other receiver with the recitation of:

said first and second signal detectors each having a control input for setting the detection threshold, said control input of said first signal detector being coupled to an output of the second signal detector and said control input of said second signal detector being coupled to an output of said first signal detector (emphasis added).

Turning now to the prior art, Moake discloses a neutron detector, which from Applicant's point of view has nothing to do with a receiver circuit for a data transmission channel, but is now addressed. The neutron detector of Moake, referring to Fig. 2, has two comparator circuits 40, 41 that compare voltage pulses 37, 39 with reference voltages  $t_1$ ,  $t_2$  provided by control logic 46. The function

of the comparator circuits 40, 41 corresponds to the function of the signal detectors according to the invention of the instant application. However, reference voltages t1, t2 of these comparator circuits are provided by the control logic 46. The reference voltages therefore are not dependent on the output signal of the comparator circuits 40, 41. However, and more importantly, the output of neither of the comparator circuits 40, 41 is connected to a control input of the other comparator circuit 40, 41 for setting the detection threshold as recited in claim 1 of the instant application. Therefore, the Examiner is respectfully requested to withdraw the anticipation rejection in regards to claim 1.

Turning now to claim 8 of the instant application, Applicant has amended claim 8 to further distinguish itself from Moake. Moake, with reference to Fig. 2, always compares voltage pulses 37, 39 with two reference voltages at the same time. In the method of amended claim 8 an input signal of one of the signal detectors is only then compared to a second threshold voltage after an input signal of the other signal detector has reached the first threshold voltage. Amended claim 8 clearly teaches this timing sequence when it recites:

comparing one of the first and second signals with a detection threshold having a second value being lower than the first value after the other of the first and second signals has reached the detection threshold with the first value (emphasis added).

It is accordingly believed to be clear that none of the references, whether taken alone or in any combination, either show or suggest the features of claims 1 or 8. Claims 1 and 8 are, therefore, believed to be patentable over the art. The dependent claims are believed to be patentable as well because they all are ultimately dependent on claim 1 or 8.

Finally, Applicant appreciatively acknowledges the Examiner's statement that claims 4-6 "would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims." In light of the above, applicants respectfully believe that rewriting of claims 4-6 is unnecessary at this time.

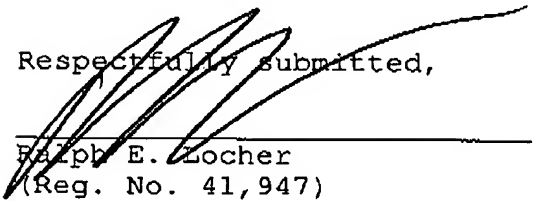
In view of the foregoing, reconsideration and allowance of claims 1-9 and 11 are solicited. Claims 12-14 have been indicated as allowable.

Petition for extension is herewith made. The extension fee for response within a period of two-months pursuant to

Section 1.136(a) in the amount of \$450.00 in accordance with Section 1.17 is enclosed herewith.

Please charge any other fees that might be due with respect to Sections 1.16 and 1.17 to the Deposit Account of Lerner Greenberg Stemer LLP, No. 12-1099.

Respectfully submitted,

  
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